

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Johnson et al.** (USP 6,580,950, previously cited), in view of **Oishi** (USP 5,958,059). Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Johnson et al.** and **Oishi**, in view of **Hilt** (USP 6,738,820, previously cited). For the reasons set forth in detail below, these rejections, to the extent they are considered to apply to the present claims, are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's position regarding the **Johnson et al.** reference is basically the same as in the previous Office Actions. More specifically, the Examiner recognizes that **Johnson et al.** does not disclose or suggest "*a power control unit that changes a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode in response to the receiving unit receiving the remote control request, and changes the power mode of the information processor from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode in response to completion of the setting of the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled,*" as recited in claim 1 (and similarly in independent claims 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16). See Office Action, page 3, lines 1-4.

The Examiner now applies the **Oishi** reference to teach the features that are not taught by **Johnson et al.**

Oishi is directed to an interface for connecting a data processing apparatus (e.g. a facsimile apparatus) to an information processing terminal (e.g., a personal computer PC). More specifically, **Oishi** relates to an interface that can respond to a request for information from the information processing terminal even when the data processing apparatus is set to a mode of reducing electric power consumption in a waiting state.

As seen in Fig. 1, the peripheral device (facsimile apparatus) includes a power supply control unit 103 that checks for a cause for turning on a main power supply 102 and turns on the main power supply 102 when that cause is generated (see col. 3, lines 3-6). Causes for turning on the main power supply 102 include a key input from an operation unit 106, setting of an original on a scanner unit 105, a ringing signal (i.e., a call) reception from a communication network, *and a request signal from the PC via an interface unit 110* (see col. 3, lines 8-16 and col. 4, lines 24-29).

In operation, the PC and the facsimile apparatus are initialized in a waiting state. The waiting state is a state wherein the main power supply 102 of the facsimile apparatus is turned off and a secondary battery supplies power to certain components. More specifically, in the waiting state, the secondary battery supplies power to a key input detection circuit, an original sensor of the scanner unit 105, and *the interface (I/F unit) 110*. See, e.g., col. 3, lines 17-24 and 43-46.

As described, e.g., in col. 4, line 59-col. 5, line 15, the main power supply 102 of the facsimile apparatus is turned on in response to a request for data transfer from the PC to the I/F unit 110 of the facsimile apparatus (see also Fig. 4). As noted above, when the interface unit (I/F) 110 in the waiting state detects a request signal from the PC, the main power supply 102 of

the facsimile apparatus is turned on and processing for receiving a signal from the PC is executed.

It is noted that the Examiner considers a signal from the PC to the I/F unit 110 of the facsimile apparatus to be a "remote control request." See Office Action, page 3, lines 6-7. As described, e.g., in col. 4, line 59-col. 5, line 15, the main power supply 102 of the facsimile apparatus is turned on in response to a request for data transfer from the PC to the I/F unit 110 of the facsimile apparatus (see also Fig. 4).

Further, **Oishi** teaches that if the presence of a signal from the I/F unit is detected (see step S5 and col. 6, lines 22-23), then a process for receiving a signal from the PC is executed (see step S11 and col. 6, lines 42-44). If the processing for receiving a signal from the PC is completed in step S11 and no signal from the I/F unit is detected in step S5, then a predetermined period of time is waited and the main power supply 102 is turned off to shift to a power saving mode (see col. 6, lines 45-54).

As recognized by the Examiner, the **Johnson et al.** reference is completely silent with respect to a power saving function. However, as discussed above, the **Oishi** device teaches that a power supply 102 of the facsimile apparatus, which is considered by the Examiner to be an apparatus to be remote controlled, is turned on when a signal from the PC is received *by the interface (I/F) 110 of the facsimile apparatus*. As shown in Fig. 3, the power supply 102 is placed in a power saving state a predetermined time after the remote control data is processed by the facsimile apparatus.

Therefore, it is submitted that the combination of **Johnson et al.** and **Oishi** would result in a system in which each individual device to be remote controlled (in **Oishi** only a facsimile apparatus is disclosed) would have an interface (I/F) 110 as disclosed by **Oishi** in order to realize the power saving function.

In other words, the combination of **Johnson et al.** and **Oishi** would result in a system wherein each device, such as the video recorder 310 and the air conditioner 320 of the present invention, would have a power saving mode, but the gateway 500 would not have a power saving mode. To put it another way, the combination of **Johnson et al.** and **Oishi** would result in a system that saves power in individual apparatuses, but does not save power in the gateway.

Accordingly, the claims have been amended to clarify that the gateway includes a receiving unit (e.g., remote control receiver 515) that can receive remote control data for a plurality of devices to be remote controlled, notifies a power controller (e.g., power controller 523) of an information processor (e.g., PC 520) to return the information processor from a power saving mode to a normal mode, and then hands over the remote control data to the information processor (e.g., PC 520) so that the information processor can set the remote control data for any of the plurality of devices to be remote controlled. See, e.g., description of steps SB4-SB7 on page 15 of the application specification.

It is submitted that neither **Johnson et al.** nor **Oishi** disclose or suggest any of the claimed features noted in the paragraph above. In other words, the combination of references does not teach a power controller *for a gateway that receives remote control data for a plurality of different devices and changes a power mode of an information processor that controls the*

gateway in response to receiving remote control data for any of the devices to be remote controlled. In contrast, the combination of references teaches a power controller for an individual device that controls power mode of the individual device, as taught by **Oishi**, and does not teach controlling a power mode of an information processor that controls a gateway, as claimed.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references does not result in the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

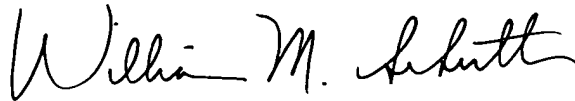
Application No. 10/658,341
Art Unit: 2116

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 031103

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent.

William M. Schertler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,348
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WMS/dlt